



El-news

IRTS supporting Amateur Radio



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November 2015

80 Metre SSB contest

The next contest organised by the UKEICC, the UK and Ireland Contest Club, takes place on Wednesday the 4th of November. It is a one hour 80m SSB contest commencing at 8pm. You work everyone and exchange your 4-character locator square, e.g. IO53, with points based on distance, and bonus points for working Low Power and QRP stations. Logs have to be uploaded within 1 hour of the end of the contest and the automated results will be published within half an hour. More information from www.ukaiccc.com

Cork Radio Club



Following Jerry, EI6BT's informative presentation on modern marine communications at the October meeting, the November meeting of Cork Radio Club, to be held on Wednesday the 4th of November, will be looking at marine communications in earlier times with Sean, EI3GS. The meeting starts at 8pm in Carrigtwohill Community Centre and visitors are very welcome. The annual dinner for Cork Amateurs will be held in the Middleton Park Hotel on Saturday the 5th of December where a 4 course meal will be served at 8pm. Tickets are €25.00 each and available from Dave, EI4BZ on 0876290574 or ei4bz@eircom.net

Revalidation of UK licences



The UK Telecommunications Regulator, OFCOM, has announced that it is set to cancel UK Amateur Radio Licences, possibly running into thousands, that have not been re-validated by the holder. The first batch to be revoked will be licences that had been due for revalidation between September 2012 and January 2013. Revalidate at <http://licensing.ofcom.org.uk/>

Future of IOTA



Islands on the Air (IOTA) celebrated its 50th anniversary as a premier DX program in July 2014.

The last fifty years have seen the program grow to 2,500 active island chasers and 15,000 more casual participants. IOTA is probably second in scale to the DXCC award and, indeed, more challenging. A new organisation will be formed called the IOTA Foundation and run by IOTA enthusiasts in partnership with the RSGB. The first task of this new organisation will be to develop an online credit system which will be completed in 2017. See <http://www.rsgbiota.org/>

IRTS Website



The IRTS website has been updated and modernised to cater for Android devices and other tablets. All information from the previous site has been transferred but the layout and navigation has been changed. See: <http://www.irts.ie/cgi/index.cgi>

VHF/UHF Squares Table

As the year is coming to a close, please give a thought to updating your listings on the VHF/UHF squares table. Send your number of Maidenhead Locator Squares to the VHF Manager at wright14@gmail.com

IRTS 4 Metre Awards

To celebrate the likely adoption of the band 69.9 – 70.5 MHz as a secondary amateur allocation in the European Common Allocation Frequency Table and Ireland's significant involvement in the process, IRTS is pleased to launch two new 4m awards. The purpose of the awards is to recognise and promote DX achievements by amateur radio operators interested in 4 metre operation. In-band and cross-band awards are available. More information can be found at <http://www.irts.ie/cgi/st.cgi?70mhz>

Seefin Mountain Repeater

North Cork Radio Club advise that the Seefin Mountain Repeater is back on the air. News is read every Tuesday evening and they welcome any reports on the reception of the bulletin. The frequency is 430.925MHz.

IRTS News Services

Echo Ireland, Radio News and *EI-News* rely on individuals and clubs to submit news items that are of interest to members. Please send newsworthy items to newsteam@irts.ie on a regular basis.

IARU Gears Up For WRC-15



The ITU conference will be held in Geneva from the 2nd of November to the 27th of November. The WRC-15 agenda includes item 1.4, which has the possibility of allocating an appropriate amount of spectrum to the Amateur Service on a secondary basis within the band 5250 - 5450KHz. The IARU team will keep a close watch on other developments that may impinge on the Amateur Service and the Amateur Satellite Service. There has been enormous preparation by the IARU and its member societies at numerous preparatory meetings held throughout the world.

Certificate Hunters

There are many certificates available from various amateur radio societies commemorating a specific point in history, their holding of International Games or any other specific event being held in their countries. Check K1BV's "Very Short Term Awards" page for details. The information for 2016 will be updated shortly. For more information see:

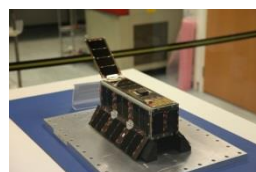
<http://www.dxawards.com/REALSHORT.htm>

Renovating Vintage Heathkit Radio



Those interested in renovating vintage radio and test equipment may be interested in the wide variety of Heathkit equipment for sale on Ebay at present. Some of the pieces are in excellent condition and are in need of a little TLC in the form of replacement capacitors and valves. Heathkit construction manuals are readily available and it is possible to follow them to find the faults and bring equipment back into specification. The Heathkit company re-appeared recently and is marketing an AM TRF receiver kit and promises more to come.

UKube-1 Completes Mission



UKube-1, the UK Space Agency's first national spacecraft, has now completed its nominal mission following over 14 months of operations. Discussion is underway with AMSAT-UK about the possibility of taking over UKube-1 operations to continue its educational and outreach activities. As a 3 unit CubeSat (30x30x10cm), flying 4 main payloads, with all the key subsystems of much larger satellites, UKube-1 remains one of the most advanced CubeSats ever built.

Halloween Fireballs

This weekend, the Earth could run into a stream of gravelly debris from the Comet Encke, source of the annual Taurid meteor shower. The last time this occurred, ten years ago in October 2005, the encounter sparked a two-week display of bright meteors called the "Halloween Fireballs" Will it happen again in 2015? Visit <http://spaceweather.com> for more information

Contests

Contests - November 2015

[WA7BNM Calendar](#) : [RSGB HF Contests](#) : [IRTS Contests](#) : [UKEICC Contests](#)

04 2000z, 60 mins - [UKEICC 80m](#): SSB: exchange locators, e.g. IO62 : work everyone.
07 1200z, 24 hours - [Ukrainian DX](#): CW/SSB: work everyone - exch. Serials (Oblast from Ukraine)
11 2000z, 60 mins - [RSGB 80m Sprint](#): SSB: exchange both calls & Serial & Name, work UK only.
14 0000z, 48 hours - [WAE DX](#): RTTY: exchange Serials, work everyone - see Rules for QTCs.
14 1200z, 24 hours - [OK/OM Contest](#): CW: send Serial, log District, work OK/OM only.
21 1200z, 24 hours - [LZ DX Contest](#): CW/SSB : exchange ITU Zone (27 or District from LZ).
21 2000z, 04 hours - [RSGB 160m](#): CW: exchange Serials (District from UK), work everyone.
25 2000z, 60 mins - [UKEICC 80m](#): CW: exchange locators, e.g. IO62 : work everyone.
26 1900z, 60 mins - [RSGB 80m Sprint](#): CW: exchange both calls & Serial & Name, work UK only.
29 0000z, 48 hours - [CQWW DX](#): CW: exchange CQ Zone (14 for EI/GI entrants) - work everyone
Every Wednesday - [CWops Mini Contests](#): CW: work everyone: three separate 60-minute contests

Compiled by [Paul EI5DI](#)